RESPONSE

In the office action, claims 1-9 and 11-17 are pending. Claims 16 is canceled herein.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 120(b) as anticipated by Moyer et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,078,118). This rejection is rendered moot by cancellation of claim 16 herein.

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Van Den Berg et al (6,548,565). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Applicants fail to see in Van Den Berg any teaching of a thiol group as taught in the instant application. The examiner specifically cites Van Den Berg at column 4, lines 58-67 and column 6, lines 20-21 for such a teaching. However, these references in Van Den Berg teach use of a thiol group to covalently bond a vinyl ether, acetal and/or alkoxysilane compound to an alkyd resin. Consequently, in Van Den Berg the thiol group has been transfromed by reaction with the vinly ether, acetal and/or alkoxysilane. Thus, at least for this reason, Van Den Berg does not anticipate the claims of the current application.

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over GB 2 166 749 (GB749) in view of Van Den Berg et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The office action admits that GB749 does not mention photoinitiators. Van Den Berg is cited in an attempt to cure this omission. However, GB749 discloses a system based on Michael or thio-Michael curing, which are non-radical reactions. Photoinitiators are typically used for radical reactions. Further, the presence of a photoinitiator in Michael curing could be undesirable by interferring with the –SH groups. Thus, at least for this reason, the cited claims are non-obvious over GB749 in view of Van Den Berg.

Claims 6 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Van Den Berg et al alone or over GB 2 166 749 in view of Van Den Berg et al and further in view of Doomen et al (5,859,135). The rejection is respectfully traversed. The deficiencies of Van Den Berg et al and the unsupportable attempt to combine Van Den Berg et al and GB749 are not cured by Doomen et al. At least for this reason, claim 6 is non-obvious over the cited references.

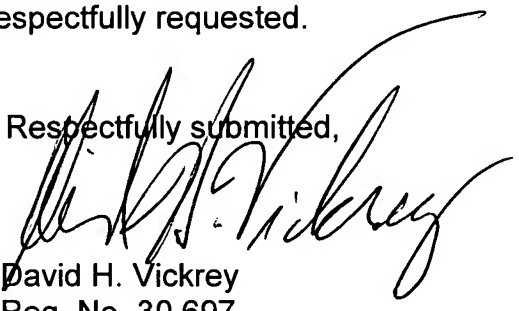
Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as obvious over GB 2 166 749 in view of Van Den Berg et al, further in view of Moyer et al (4,078,118). The rejection is respectfully traversed. The unsupportable attempt to combine Van Den Berg et al and GB749 is not cured by Moyer et al. At least for this reason, claim 9 is non-obvious over the cited references.

Claims 1-9 and claims 11-17 are rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentableover claims 1-13 of US Patent No. 6,476,183 in view of Van Den Berg et al or Doomen et al. The office action states that Van Den Berg et al and Doomen et al teach photopoylmerizing oxidatively drying condensation products containing ethylenically unsaturated group in the presece of a photoinitiator and that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to add a photoinitiator to the composition of US183. However, even though it may be known generally to use photoinitiators in systems having ethylenically unsaturated groups, it is not obvious to add a photoinitiator to all such systems. Further, US183 employs siccatives to promote curing. It would not be obvious to use a photoinitiator in a system where curing is promoted by siccatives. At least for these reasons, withdrawal of the rejection for obviousness double patenting is respectfully requested.

Turning lastly to the Conclusion section of the office action, it is noted that the references discussed in the Conclusion are not the references cited and discussed in the office action. Accordingly, this response does not address comments raised in the Conclusion.

Thus, as discussed above, the present claims are allowable over the cited art. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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